

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 3 1 2007

Dockets 05-337 and/or Docket 96-45

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION

Terrence Stapleton

Executive Vice President

June 14, 2007

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC
Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board
on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I would like to thank and praise Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate for her outstanding leadership as chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (Joint Board) and for her eloquent testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee on June 12, 2007. I also would like to express my full support of the Joint Board's recommendation to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (CETCs) will receive over the next 18 months. The Joint Board's proposed interim cap will secure the near-term sustainability of the high-cost Universal Service Fund (USF). This is a necessary first step toward long-term USF reform that must be taken to sustain affordable communications services for generations to come.

The proposed interim measure will relieve the rapidly growing pressure on the high-cost USF mechanism resulting from the explosive growth in CETC USF support. Adopting the 18-month interim CETC USF cap will provide the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) enough time to develop and implement long-term USF reform measures without risking the sustainability of the fund or public safety.

This is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of all consumers. Without this critical interim action and the leadership of Commissioner Tate the benefits that universal service provides to consumers would be in serious jeopardy in the very near future. For these reasons, I urge Chairman Martin and Commissioners Copps, Adelstein and McDowell to support

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List A B C D E

Commissioner Tate and adopt the Joint Board's proposed emergency, interim cap on CETC high-cost universal service support.

Sincerely,

Terrence Stapleton

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate

2405 Evergreen Park Drive SW, Suite B-2 * P O Box 2473 *** Olympia WA 98507**
VOICE 360-352-5453 FAX 360-352-8886 EMAIL wita@wita-tel.org

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Dockets 05-337 and/or Docket 96-45

June 11, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

**Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket
No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal
Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Commissioner Tate:

I am writing to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers may receive.

I appreciate your leadership and that of the other members of the Joint Board and staff as you consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Bruce C. Bohnsack
President
Germantown Telephone Co.

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Dockets 05-337 and/or Docket 96-45

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Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal
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Dear Commissioner Tate:

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preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this
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serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Ken Hollmann
Egyptian Telephone Cooperative Association

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

~~~~~  
The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity  
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05-337 and/or Docket 96-45

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Federal Communications Commission  
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Sincerely,

Robert L. Hutter  
Adams Telephone Co-Operative

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell



Robert L. Hutter  
Controller

[RobertHutter@adams.net](mailto:RobertHutter@adams.net)

405 Emminga Road  
P.O. Box 217  
Golden, IL 62339

Phone: 217.696.4411  
Fax: 217.696.4811

Dockets 05-337 and/or Docket 96-45  
June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 8-A204  
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Federal Communications Commission  
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Sincerely,

**Therese Giannaris**  
**Adams Telephone Co-Operative**

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell



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*Docket 05-337 and/or Docket 96-45*

120 EAST FIRST • P.O. BOX 48  
KIMBALL, SD 57355-0048  
PHONE (605) 778-6221 • FAX (605) 778-8080  
www.midstatesd.net

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JUL 3 1 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room TW-B204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are writing this letter to the Commission to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers may receive.

We appreciate the leadership of Commissioner Tate and the other members of the Joint Board and Staff as they consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in South Dakota. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,  
Midstate Communications, Inc.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark D. Benton", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark D. Benton, General Manager

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Hon. Ray Baum



Hon. Larry S. Landis  
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar  
Hon. John D. Burke  
Hon. Billy Jack Gregg

Senator John Thune  
Senator Tim Johnson  
Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin



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JUL 3 1 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**RURAL TELEPHONE SERVICE CO., INC.**

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 8-A204  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the  
Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Commissioner Tate:

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I appreciate your leadership and that of the other members of the Joint Board and staff as you consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

Rural Telephone is in the unique position of being a rural ILEC, with a wholly owned subsidiary, Nex-Tech, operating as a CLEC, which owns 47.5 percent of a wireless CETC. We still strongly believe that the Joint Board's recommendation of an interim emergency cap on CETCs is a good first step to stem the escalation of support to CETCs, while a longer term solution is crafted, even though it may result in a decrease in revenue for our company.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Sevier  
CEO/General Manager

RSU/ckw

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

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June 8, 2007

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Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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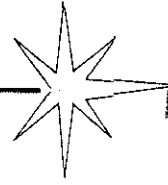
We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in North Dakota. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Jeff T. Wilson  
General Manager

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Hon. Ray Baum  
Hon. Larry S. Landis  
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar  
Hon. John D. Burke  
Hon. Billy Jack Gregg  
Senator Byron Dorgan  
Senator Kent Conrad

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We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in South Dakota. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

*Rod Bowar*

Rod Bowar President/Manager  
Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Hon. Ray Baum  
Hon. Larry S. Landis  
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar  
Hon. John D. Burke  
Hon. Billy Jack Gregg

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Senator Tim Johnson  
Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

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Sincerely,

**Renee' Hull**  
**Adams Telephone Co-Operative**

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell



101 NORTH MAIN STREET  
P.O. Box 38  
MOULTON, IA 52572  
TELEPHONE: 641-642-3249  
FAX: 641-642-3966

*DOCKET 05-337 AND/OR DOCKET 96-45*

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We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in Iowa. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

*Tammy S. Wheeler, CPA, General Manager*

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Hon. Ray Baum  
Hon. Larry S. Landis  
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar  
Hon. John D. Burke  
Hon. Billy Jack Gregg  
Senator Chuck Grassley  
Senator Tom Harkin

psc

*DOCKET 05-337 AND/OR DOCKET 96-45*

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Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

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Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 8-A204  
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Sincerely,

  
*James M. Dauby, President/CEO*  
*Perry-Spencer Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.*

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

PSC

11877 E. State Road 62 P.O. Box 126 Saint Meinrad, Indiana 47577  
(812) 357-2123 Fax (812) 357-2211  
[www.psci.net](http://www.psci.net) [psc@psci.net](mailto:psc@psci.net)



*DOCKET 05-337 AND/OR DOCKET 96-45*

**From:** V. Schryver [vschryver@lnet1.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 08, 2007 2:14 PM  
**To:** Robert McDowell  
**Subject:** Universal Service Support

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JUL 3 1 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 8-A204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

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Sincerely,  
**Vicki Schryver**  
**CSR**  
Leaf River Telephone Co.  
102 W 2nd St, P.O. Box 277  
Leaf River, IL 61047  
1-815-738-2211

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps

7/20/2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate

7/20/2007



*DOCKET 05-337 AND/OR DOCKET 96-45*

June 8, 2007

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JUL 31 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

300 North Broadway  
PO Box 2027  
Bismarck, ND 58102-2027  
701-958-1200

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PO Box 2027  
Bismarck, ND 58102-2027  
701-958-1200

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
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Sincerely,

Steven D. Lyne  
CO/General Manager  
SRT Communications Inc.

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Hon. Ray Baum  
Hon. Larry S. Landis  
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar  
Hon. John D. Burke  
Hon. Billy Jack Gregg  
Hon. Kent Conrad  
Hon. Byron L. Dorgan  
Hon. Earl Pomeroy

*DOCKET 05-337 AND/OR DOCKET 96-45*

**From:** Karen Proulx [karen@mdtc.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 08, 2007 1:37 PM  
**To:** Deborah Tate  
**Cc:** Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP

FILED/ACCEPTED

JUL 3 1 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 8-A204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

*Karen Proulx*

7/20/2007

Karen Proulx  
Marketing/PR Coordinator  
McDonough Telephone Cooperative  
Phone: 309/776-3211  
FAX: 309/776-3299  
email: [karen@mdtc.net](mailto:karen@mdtc.net)



cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

7/20/2007



# Lafourche Telephone Co., LLC

Dedicated to Excellence...  
Founded on Communications

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JUL 3 1 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 8-A204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

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We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Toby Brady  
Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Post Office Box 188  
112 West 10<sup>th</sup> Blvd.  
Larose, LA 70373  
(985) 693-4567



DOCKET 05-337 AND/OR DOCKET 96-45

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Federal Communications Commission  
Division of the Secretary  
**HunTel, Inc.**

June 8, 2007

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room TW-B204  
Washington, D.C. 20554

1605 Washington Street  
P.O. Box 400  
Blair, Nebraska 68008-0400

Main 402.533.1000  
Fax 402.533.1111

www.HunTelWorld.com

**Re: In the matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; In the matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are writing this letter to the Commission to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers may receive.

We appreciate the leadership of Commission Tate and the other members of the Joint Board and Staff as they consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers in Nebraska. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board the benefits that universal service provides to my rural customers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Jacobson

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Hon. Ray Baum  
Hon. Larry S. Landis  
Hon. Lisa Polak Edgar  
Hon. John D. Burke  
Hon. Billy Jack Greg

Senator Chuck Hagel  
Senator Benjamin E. Nelson  
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry

*DOCKET 05-337 AND/OR DOCKET 96-45*

**From:** Kevin Jacobsen [kjacobsen@egyptian.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 08, 2007 11:30 AM  
**To:** Deborah Tate  
**Cc:** Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT THE CETC USF CAP

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JUL 3 1 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

June 8, 2007

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
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445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
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I am writing to endorse the recommendation of the Joint Board on Universal Service to place an interim, emergency cap on the amount of high-cost universal service support that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers may receive.

I appreciate your leadership and that of the other members of the Joint Board and staff as you consider the difficult questions associated with the distribution mechanism for universal service support.

We believe that this first step is the best way to begin a process to preserve universal service for the benefit of consumers. Without this critical action and leadership on the part of the Joint Board, the benefits that universal service provides to rural consumers would be in serious jeopardy.

Sincerely,

**Kevin J. Jacobsen**  
**Egyptian Telephone Cooperative Association**

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell



Kevin J. Jacobsen, General Manager

7/20/2007



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7/20/2007